

XM Radio's ability to provide continuous traffic and weather information for a large number of metropolitan areas is a useful service. Personally, I use this service several times a month while traveling along the IH-95 corridor. That I can directly dial into up-to-date and accurate traffic information for Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, and on my return trip, Washington, DC before I reach those areas enhances the effectiveness and safety of my trip. This "advance warning system" is unavailable through normal broadcast radio. Professionally, as the Chief Technology Officer of a trade association representing the owners and management of most of the U.S.'s major interstate trucking companies, I know from conversations with my counterparts in the industry that access to XM Radio's traffic and weather service is now an important part of their planning and logistics processes. Although I do not speak for the Association or its members in this matter at this time, I know access to a nationwide network of traffic and weather information is a key component in minimizing delays in transit and contributes in no small way to holding down fuel costs through the avoidance delays associated with accident scenes and traffic congestion. Additionally, avoiding such situations has a positive environmental effect: a diesel engine idling in a traffic jam emits far more particulate matter, hydrocarbons and sulfur than when operating at normal speed.

I respectfully urge you to reject the National Association of Broadcasters' petition 04-160. XM Radio's Instant Traffic and Weather channels are a valuable resource and should be allowed to continue operating.